

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims by amending claims 1 and 24 as indicated below, cancelling formerly pending claims 5, 7, and 10-12, and cancelling withdrawn claims 6, 8, 9, and 13-23, all without prejudice, as indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Amendment:

Listing of Claims

1.(Presently Amended) A method for image sensing comprising the acts of:
producing, from a photo detector, a plurality of detected electronic signals responsive to an optical image;
amplifying, with a column buffer amplifier, signals selected from the detected electronic signals to produce a plurality of amplified signals;
sampling, with a correlated double sampler, signals selected from the amplified signals to produce a plurality of sampled signals;
and
clamping, by a clamp circuit, at least one signal selected from ~~the detected electronic signals~~ and the sampled signals in response to a detecting of at least one over-saturation condition;
whereby image inversion is at least partially abated.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the photo detector comprises a photo diode.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the photo detector comprises a photo gate.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the clamp circuit is implemented in a technology selected from a list consisting of N-well CMOS process technology and of P-well CMOS process technology.

Claim 5-23: Cancelled.

24.(Presently Amended) In an image sensor that correlates a first sample of a first signal during a first interval after reset of a photo detector and a second sample of the first signal during a later interval in the same sampling cycle as the first interval to produce a luminance signal, a method for abating an error in the luminance signal due to excessively rapid slewing of the first signal during the first interval wherein the improvement comprises:

detecting that the first signal is slewing excessively rapidly during the first interval; and
limiting the value of the first sample;

whereby the image sensor produces an output of improved accuracy.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein:
the error is an image inversion due to over-saturation.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein:
the detecting is responsive to the first signal reaching the bounds of a predetermined threshold.